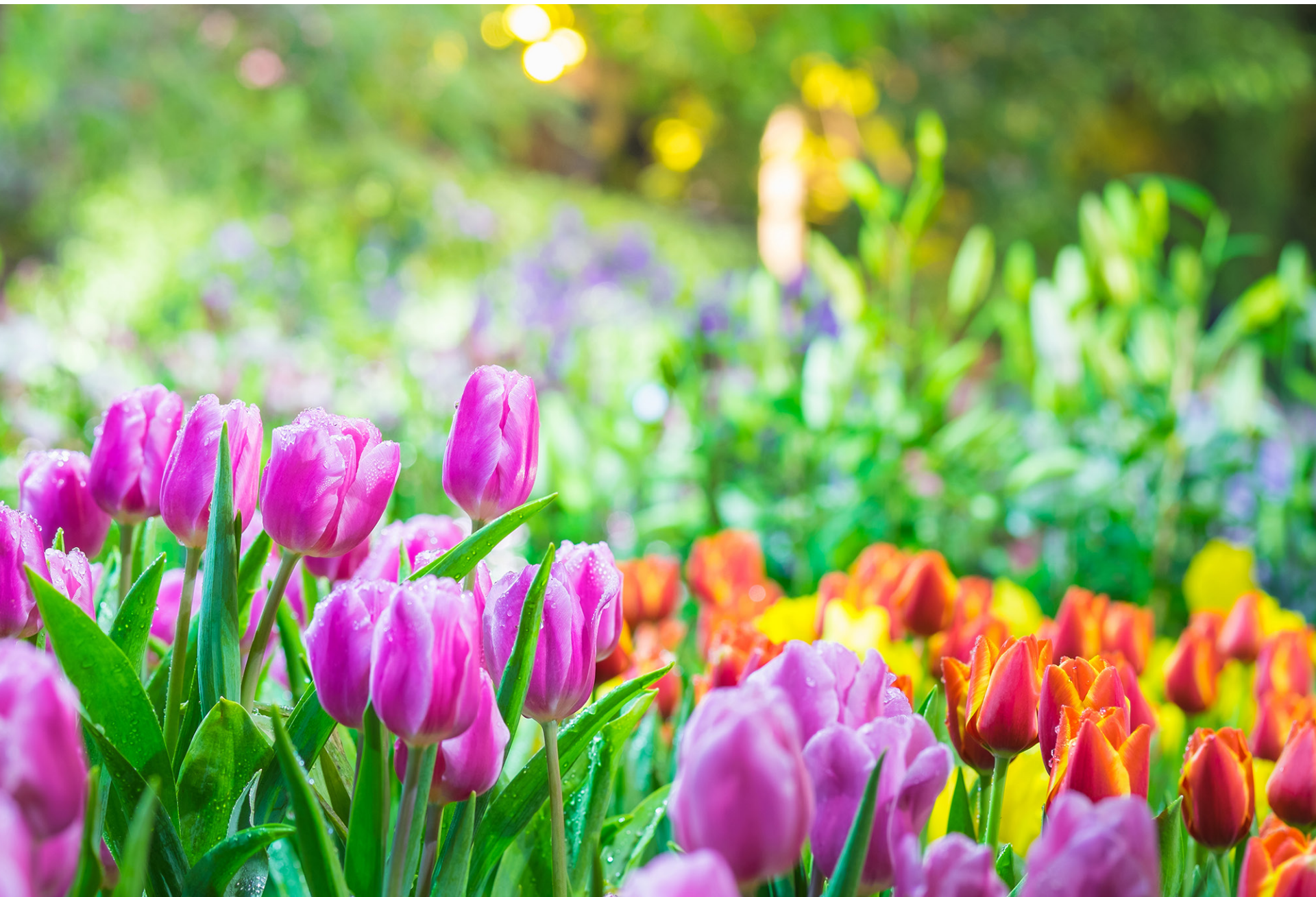


The Comstock Communicator

COMSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL | COMPASS HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION | NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL | NORTH ELEMENTARY | STEM ACADEMY | GREEN MEADOW ELEMENTARY



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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MORE NEWS

Turn over to read
Center Point
A newsletter about the
Comstock
Community Center

From the Superintendent



Dear Comstock Public Schools Community,

The Comstock Public Schools' Board of Education approved placing a bond issue on the May 3, 2016, ballot. The Board of Education is asking voters to approve a \$40 million bond that would be issued in three phases over nine (9) years. If approved, the bond issue would not increase millage rates. Currently, the district has two outstanding bond issues, one from 1991 and one from 2010. The total millage for those issues is five (5) mills. The projected millage for the new bond issue, if passed, would not exceed the five (5) mills currently being levied.

Thus, there will be no increase in the tax rate.

Current Voted Debt Millages:

1990 Voted Debt	3.15 Mills	Expires 12/31/2016
2010 Voted Debt	<u>1.85 Mills</u>	Expires 12/31/2016
Total Current Millage	5.00 Mills	

Proposed Millage:

2016 Proposed Debt 5.00 Mills Levy would begin in 2017 and last for 27 years.

The Comstock Public Schools' Board of Education vision is to *be a national leader in providing quality public education*. To reach that vision, the board feels it is important to provide Comstock Public Schools' students with appropriate learning environments and current instructional supportive technology.

The board has completed a comprehensive facilities review and prioritized the highest needs for the district's buildings. These needs include updating and replacing basic building systems such as outdated electrical systems and worn out plumbing and ventilation systems.

Additionally, the board wants students to remain globally competitive by investing in technology infrastructure improvements. These improvements include expanded wireless networks, replacement of

Continued on page 12

Comstock Community Auditorium Events Open to the Public

April:			
1-2	Cinderella: Heritage Christian Academy, April 1 and 2, 7 p.m. Matinée - April 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets: 372-1400	9	Red Cross Blood Drive; Colt Center. 7 a.m. -3 p.m.
9	Borgess Marathon Run Camp, 7 a.m.-Noon - Colt Center.	11	Comstock STEM/Northeast Middle/High School Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FREE
12	West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Spring Band/Choir Concert, 7 p.m. (Includes band, orchestra, choir) \$3 at the door.	12	NEMS Band Concert 7 p.m., FREE
19	Aladdin Jr.-Homeschool Performing Arts - Kids, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472	16	Comstock High School Band Concert, 7 p.m., FREE
29-30	Hello Dolly! Homeschool Performing Arts, 7 p.m. Also Matinée on April 30 at 3 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472	14	Comstock Senior Oscar Night, 7 p.m.
		16	Comstock High School Honors Convocation, 7 p.m., FREE
		17	Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Choir/ Band Concert, 7 p.m., FREE
		18	Kalamazoo Christian High School Choir/ Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., FREE
		24	Kalamazoo Christian Middle School Musical, <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> , Performance, 1:30, 7 p.m.; For ticket infor- mation, call 544-2332
May:			
1-2	Hello Dolly! Homeschool Performing Art, 7 p.m.; Also Matinée, May 2, at 3 p.m. Tickets: 1-855-472-1472	25	Comstock NEMS Awards Program, 7 p.m.
		31	The Montessori School Concert, 6:30 p.m., FREE



COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL DISTRICT DEDICATED TO KIDS

www.comstockps.org

Todd Mora
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jackie Wahl, President
Mike Hicks, Vice President
Shirley Amos, Treasurer-Secretary
Brandy Brown, Trustee
Richard Hathaway, Trustee
Paul Lamphear, Trustee
Pamela Dickinson, Trustee

Paula Johnson, *Appointed Treasurer*
Faye Goldner, *Appointed Recording Secretary*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Comstock Public Schools is to provide excellence in education for all students through innovation and creativity

VISION STATEMENT

The Vision of Comstock Public Schools is to be a national leader in quality public education.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions concerning your schools, the answer is only a telephone call away: 269-250-8907

STORIES OR INFORMATION

The Comstock Communicator is published by Comstock Public Schools. Information may be sent to Todd Mora at morat@comstockps.org or by fax at 250-8908. It may also be e-mailed to Phyllis Rose at phyllisarose@aol.com.



Students attend MiCareerQuest Southwest



Students in ninth through eleventh grade recently attended MiCareerQuest Southwest to learn about many careers in Southwest Michigan.

MiCareerQuest SW included employers from four industry areas: Arts & Communication; Business, Technology & Human Services; Engineering & Manufacturing; and Health & Natural Sciences.

Employers brought workers and hands-on activities to capture students' interest in learning more about jobs in the Kalamazoo area. Thus, students learned from people who work in those careers every day. They also learned about the steps to take to plan their futures.

Students were also able to get up close and personal with CNC machines, CPR dummies, robots, farm animals, and ballet dancers, for example.

Also, included in the event were Education for

Middle College, all programs that Comstock students can apply for once in high school. MiCareerQuest was a great way for students to learn more about these opportunities and how

they relate to the careers that were showcased.

This was a fast-paced event that kept the students thinking, learning, and experiencing.



Board Briefs

REGULAR MEETING

December 14, 2015

- Auditorium manager, Sue Duncan, reported that rentals and events have increased this year.
- Technology director, Mark Peeters, reported that the district must follow strict timelines for bidding for phone services.
- Approved Sarah VanWorner as varsity volleyball coach.
- Approved the modified merit pay plan for the 2015-16 school year.
- Approved placing the bond proposal on the May, 2016, ballot for a renewal of the current five mills for a 27-year period.
- Appointed Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone as bond counsel.
- Approved the director of operations job description.
- Approved authorizing Envirollogic Technologies to conduct soil samples and services required to close underground tanks, two at North Elementary and one at the CESC.
- Approved resignation request of Todd Mora, effective December 31, 2015.

SPECIAL MEETING

December 16, 2015

- Heard presentations from various sources about assistance provided in a superintendent search.

- Approved offering Todd Mora the position of interim director of operations, effective January 1, 2016.
- Approved working toward an agreement with KRESA to contract the services of Thomas Harwood as interim superintendent.

SPECIAL MEETING

December 28, 2015

- President Wahl informed the board that legal counsel indicates that Superintendent Mora is grandfathered into his position and does not require certification to continue as superintendent.
 - Superintendent Mora withdrew his letter of resignation and will submit a letter rescinding his resignation.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

January 11, 2016

- Elected the following officers:
 - President: Jacqueline Wahl
 - Vice President: Shirley Amos
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Brandy Brown
- Appointed Faye Goldner as recording secretary.
- Appointed Paula Johnson as treasurer.
- Approved Board of Education calendar.
- Approved various other organizational tasks.

REGULAR MEETING

January 11, 2016

- Recognized the Junior Achievement team from the high school which won the Titan Challenge, taking first and fourth places.
- Approved the following coaches:
 - Shanon Williams - Assistant varsity wrestling
 - Scott Kimball - Head middle school track coach
 - Anna Meulenberg-Munn - Assistant middle school track coach
 - Paul VanNiman - JV basketball

SPECIAL MEETING

January 28, 2016

- Discussed promotional materials and ideas for the bond issue with Steve Merriman from GMB Architects and Engineering.
- Approved a slogan for the bond issue: "Invest in Excellence; Prepare for Tomorrow."

SPECIAL MEETING

January 25, 2016

- Approved Sarah Taylor as 7th grade volleyball coach.
- Approved Heather Nicklaw as JV volleyball coach.
- Brad Hemmes from GMB Architects and Engineering provided a draft of the proposed bond issue priorities.



Foundation Awards Teacher Mini Grants

The Comstock Public Schools Foundation has awarded mini grants to Maria Standal, McKenzie Shepard, and Katelan Schoen.

The Foundation awards these grants every year to staff members who have project ideas to further students' education.

Maria Standal, North Elementary resource room teacher, will be purchasing sensory items to help students in need of sensory and physical activity input to help them self-regulate and calm themselves when needed.

McKenzie Shepard, North Elementary resource room teacher, and Katelan Schoen, NEMS resource room teacher, are using their mini grant to assist special education students at North and NEMS to learn functional life and work skills through a coffee cart service, where once a week, students provide staff with coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

Thus far this year, the Foundation has awarded two of the four mini-grants available.

Congratulations to Ms. Standal, Ms. Shepard, and Ms. Schoen.

Comstock Public Schools Foundation Meetings

Everyone is welcome to attend the Comstock Public Schools Foundation meetings.

Upcoming meetings are April 12, May 3, and June 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building on Gull Road.

Please come and see what is going on at one of our next meetings. Hope to see you there!

Cathy Buscher Wins First Rena H. Brooks Award



Cathy Buscher, (third from the left), receives the Rena H. Brooks Award from Foundation president Bridget Hicks, (second from the left), as Superintendent Todd Mora (far left) and North Elementary principal, Kristie Poulson, (far right), look on.

North Elementary kindergarten teacher, Cathy Buscher, has been awarded the first Rena H. Brooks Excellence in Early Education Award in the amount of \$500.

This new award, to be given annually, was established by Rena H. Brooks' sons, Malcolm (Chip), David, and Robert, to honor their mother who taught early elementary grades from 1953 to 1994, with 32 of those years in the Comstock schools, mostly at Green Meadow

Mrs. Brooks loved teaching, and being an influential teacher was important to her. She was recognized by her colleagues as an outstanding teacher, but the proof is in four decades of students who came to love learning through her efforts.

She believed then, and believes today, that being a great teacher requires patience, flexibility, a joy for teaching, a sense of humor, a positive relationship with staff and parents, and a talent for making learning fun and interesting.

Ms. Buscher plans to use her grant to purchase tablets to allow students to be exposed to more reading and math materials that focus on their target skills level.

This annual award will be given to an early elementary teacher in preschool through second grade.

Congratulations, Ms. Buscher, on being the first recipient of this award.

Seniors Complete FAFSA Forms, Learn About Scholarships

During the recent Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion nights, 45 percent of the senior class successfully submitted their FAFSA forms, helping them to earn thousands of dollars in financial aid for college.

In addition, the high school has provided seniors with information about available scholarships through several scholarship nights. During these events, students and their families learned about available scholarships and their eligibility requirements while also receiving help in writing the required application essay.

The goal is to help students find financial aid wherever possible whether it's from the Comstock Community Foundation, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, local credit unions, or outside sources.

As the year progresses, so do the responsibilities of our soon-to-be high school graduates. It is up to both us and them to act on these financial aid opportunities.

The FAFSA completion and scholarship nights are part of the school's "College Cash Campaign," aimed at helping students find financial aid to help fund their college education.

Comstock High School

Band Students Earn First Division Ratings

Earning First Division Ratings at MSBOA District Solo & Ensemble were band students Tajah Thomas, Maddison Ballinger, and Nick Wahl. This accomplishment qualified them to participate at the State level. Congratulations Tajah, Maddison, and Nick!



Reporter Talks to Public Speaking Class

Walter Smith-Randolph, a reporter for WWMT, recently spoke to public speaking students at the high school. Smith-Randolph told how he has always been fascinated with the power of speech even when he was a child watching talk shows and the evening news with his grandmother in New York City. Today, his ultimate goal is to work on *Good Morning, America*.

He also provided students with tips on preparing a speech, engaging the audience and taking a step back when it seems the speech is in trouble. He also spoke about the difficulties of interviewing people who have just undergone hardships. Following his talk, Smith-Randolph fielded questions from the students.

Students and staff are grateful to Smith-Randolph for sharing his time and expertise.



Northeast Middle School

NEMS Students Celebrate Spirit Week



Mr. Kirksey's advisory class won the Spirit Week competition. For dress up day, his students all wore ties. Back row, left to right: Thomas Warner, Michael Peake, Robert Dockins, Justice McCoy, Gabriella Mulder. Middle row, left to right: Brionna Tiffany, Jyllian Boers, Anica Laarman. Front row, left to right: Colin Fletter, Preston Odom, Vincent Branch.

Education Center Offers Certified Nurse Aide Training

Comstock Public Schools Community Education Center, 3010 Gull Road, offers a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Training monthly.

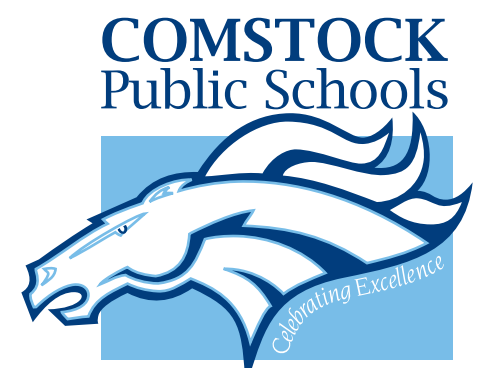
Our intensive 80 hour course meets all of the requirements of the State of Michigan Certified Nurse Aide Training program. Course content includes: long-term care facilities, physical and emotional needs of residents, resident rights, communication skills, death and dying, special needs including dementia care, vital signs, infection control techniques, observations, medical terminology, body mechanics, transfers, walkers, canes, positioning in bed, nutrition, intake and output, elimination needs, skin care, foot care, dressing, bathing, bed making, mouth care and first aid. Homework is required.

The class consists of 10 classroom days from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Also, three nursing home days from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. are required. Class size is limited to 24 students.

Tuition is \$700, due at the time of registration. You get to keep the book. A nurse aide uniform, appropriate shoes and a watch with a second hand are required.

Students who desire state certification pay an additional \$125 to the State of Michigan to take the state test. Upcoming class dates with availability are April 25, July 5, August 1 and August 29

Please call 269-250-8930 with questions.



Families Enjoy North's Literacy Night

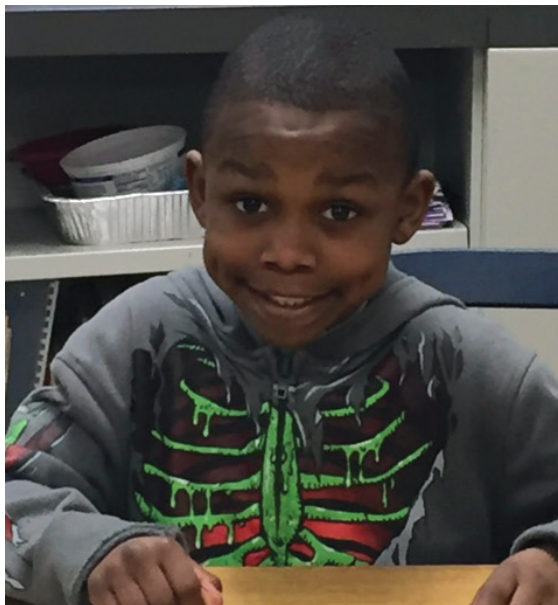
Students and their families participated in many fun and spaced-themed educational activities for North's annual Literacy Night.

They also enjoyed time with our "celebrity" guest readers that included Astronaut Mora, aka Comstock's superintendent; Mrs. Jill Ansel, Comstock firefighters and Kalamazoo College Lady Hornets basketball players, Grace Smith and Victoria Beehler.

Staff and students put together gift baskets based on children's books. These baskets were auctioned off in a silent auction to raise money for literacy at North Elementary.

After completing activities, students could put their name in the hat for raffle items purchased by our PTG or donated by local businesses, including one of North Elementary's biggest supporters, Julianna's Restaurant. Two very lucky students won new bikes.

Thanks to the Comstock High School National Honor Society students who came up with the theme and did all the hard work to make Literacy Night really blast off this year.



Cornelius Perkins works at one of the activity centers.

Once again, North students and staff, our community and families came together for a fun evening supporting their school.

North Elementary

Fourth Grader Wins AR T-shirt Contest



With his gift cards and framed design, fourth grader, David Coleman, winner of the AR T-shirt contest, wears the T-shirt he designed for North's Accelerated Reader program.

North Students Rewarded for Reading



Pictures of North students fill a wall. Each time they meet a reading goal, they receive a sticker on their picture card.

North Elementary students have been reading, reading, reading.

In September, Mrs. Philipsen, library media clerk, took pictures of every single student at North Elementary. Since then, students have been reading Accelerated Reader (AR) books to meet their reading goals to get their AR picture on the wall.

Each time they met a reading goal, they received

a sticker on their picture card.

Since January, students have been "Warming Up to a Good Book." Every time they passed an AR test, they could fill out a snowman to celebrate that accomplishment. Now, an entire wall is decorated with snowmen.

During March, students were "Shooting to Meet Their AR Goal" to fill an entire wall with basketballs.

David Coleman, a fourth grader in Mr. Faraci's class, won the annual Accelerated Reader (AR) T-shirt design contest. David received gift cards, his graphic design in a frame, and an honorary AR T-shirt. His design features a compass and the slogan, "North Is Where Literacy Begins."

The AR T-shirts are given to students who meet four AR goals.

Designing the T-shirts began in November when art teacher, Mrs. Knieling, had her fourth graders work on graphic design, teaching them how graphic arts are used to convey messages.

"We discussed how we can use graphic art on a shirt to convey a message about literacy using the school's nautical theme," she says. "As a class, we came up with slogans and images that could go along with the theme."

Then, students created four ideas they felt reflected a nautical message about literacy. Once they had four different ideas, they sat down with Mrs. Knieling to discuss which one was their strongest idea. Then, students created a final draft using only a pencil and white paper.

After students finished their graphic design images, North's staff chose the winning design for the 2015-2016 Accelerated Reader T-shirt.

North is extremely proud of David's artistic efforts to celebrate reading.

Students Bake Bread for Themselves, Others

North Elementary

North Elementary's third and fourth graders recently learned how to bake bread, courtesy of the King Arthur Flour Company and their "Bake for Good" program.

Paula Gray, from King Arthur Flour, taught the students how to bake bread. Then, the company provided enough all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour and yeast for each student to bake two loaves of bread at home, one to enjoy themselves and one to donate.

Third graders helped with the demonstration while fourth graders who had met their AR goals packed all the take home bags of ingredients.

With the help of an adult, students used their reading, science, and math skills while baking their loaves of bread over the weekend. They enjoyed one loaf at home and returned the second loaf to the school to be donated.

Mary Gustas, executive director of the Comstock Community Center, and volunteers from Wells Fargo were on hand to collect the donated

bread for distribution to Hospitality House, which provides housing for people whose family members are being treated at local hospitals.

A special thank you goes to Michele Marvin, a nutrition educator/coordinator with the Van Buren Intermediate School District, who wrote the application for North to be considered for the program. North was one of only six schools in Southwest Michigan chosen to participate in the "Bake for Good" program.

This was an incredible opportunity for our students to share in quality family time, to see how their math, science and reading skills could be put to practical use and to share their efforts with those in need.

Public Media Network (PMN) filmed the project and it aired in March. PMN can be found on channels 187-191 on Charter, 99 on AT&T, and at FM 89.9. It can also be streamed at publicmedianet.org.



TJ Allen and Azaria Pompey from Ms. Alatalo's third grade work with Paula Gray of King Arthur Flour Co. who taught students to bake bread in the company's "Bake for Good" program.

Students Celebrate Books of Dr. Seuss



Kindergarten students at North enjoy eating green eggs and ham during their celebration of the works of Dr. Seuss who wrote the children's book, "Green Eggs and Ham."

Kindergartners in Mrs. Welch's and Miss Buscher's classes recently celebrated the works of Dr. Seuss, books that all of the students enjoyed.

Highlights of the week included reading *Fox in Socks* and counting socks by two's and making/eating green eggs and ham after reading *Green Eggs and Ham*.

The classes also read *The Cat in the Hat* and made edible Jell-o hats for dessert.

They even made a graph to see which colorful food they liked the best and the winner was green eggs and ham.

Mrs. Welch and Miss Buscher pointed out all of the rhymes Dr. Seuss used along with the silly words he made up for his stories.

It was a fun-filled week as the classes celebrated all the wonderful books that Dr. Seuss wrote for children to enjoy.

Northeast Middle School

Parents Enjoy Donuts with Honor Roll Students

The Middle School staff did something a little different second semester to honor students on the honor roll who had achieved at least a 3.0 average the first semester.

They invited parents to join their students for juice and donuts at 7:45 a.m. during advisory.

The parents responded in a big way. Over 50 students had one or more family members join them.

It was a great time to watch students and parents be proud together.



STEM Academy

STEM Academy Places Fourth at Science Olympiad



STEM Academy students recently placed fourth overall at a regional event at Western Michigan University. This was STEM's first time to compete in the Science Olympiad.

STEM Olympians participated in 23 events, and earned medals in nine of those events. Gold medals were earned in Air Trajectory; Anatomy & Physiology; Disease Detectives; and "Scrambler." STEM students also earned three silver medals and two bronze medals.

Congratulations to the STEM representatives: Shelby Alexander, Tia Geer, Logan Hicks,

Justise Johnson, Alex Kish, Lydia Kruis, Samantha Nicholson, Matthew Northrup, Alex Patov, Sylvi Richards, Anna Schreiner, Matt Searles, and Arianna Shannon.

Many thanks to Mrs. Grintals, and all the parent volunteers who gave hours and hours of their time to make this activity possible.

The school's participation in this event resulted from several competitive academic events introduced during the last school year with the idea that the school would participate in competitions during this school year.

STEM Academy Students Enjoy Music, Fine Arts

STEM Academy

Music is alive and well at the STEM Academy. Students recently attended the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra (KSO) concert, "Keep on Moving," at Chenery Auditorium. They listened to all of the music and then did activities related to the music. "The Machine" is one song students heard and then they made human machines in music class.

Students worked hard on their program music for their "Disney and the Movies" concert at the Comstock Auditorium. They explored the music from many Disney movies. During the program, Mary Poppins even flew in for a short visit on the stage. Student artwork was displayed in the lobby for parents, family and friends to enjoy.

The middle school choir and band students went to a Broadway show, "Matilda," in Chicago. They also enjoyed Chicago style pizza.

Other music and fine arts activities students have recently enjoyed include a youth concert at Chenery and the kindergarten through fifth grade music program at the Comstock Auditorium.

In April, they will attend the Education for the Arts "Love That Dog" performance at the Civic Auditorium, a fifth grade lesson with the KSO and the KSO Petting Zoo.

Green Meadow Elementary

Students Visit KIA



Students learn about layers in art from an EFA teaching artist at the KIA.

Students in Mrs. Laning's, Mrs. McVerry's, and Miss Kimmer's classes visited the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA) as a part of KRESA's Education for the Arts Aesthetic Education program.

Students were given a guided viewing tour of three areas in the KIA. Teaching Artists from EFA taught lessons and guided the viewing of art works.

It was an amazing experience and the students learned a lot.

GM Soars Into Literacy



Green Meadow students enjoy Papa John's pizza during Literacy Night.

Green Meadow had an excellent turnout for its annual Literacy Night, which this year had a "Space" theme. The high school's National Honor Society did a stellar job organizing it.

Two special guest readers were Astronaut Mora and Mrs. Frizzle. Families participated in many fun activities related to space including bingo.

Participants enjoyed Papa John's pizza. We are very grateful for Papa John's support of Green Meadow programs.

STEM Academy

STEM Hosts Open House for Science Lab

The STEM Academy recently held an open house for the newly completed science lab. Student demonstrations helped to showcase the new, state-of-the-art lab.

STEM Director, Chris Chopp, talked with guests about educational opportunities at the STEM Academy.

Construction of the new lab, which began at the end of the last school year, was needed due to the addition of seventh and eighth grades to the STEM Academy, located in a building that had been an elementary school for decades.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us at 269-250-8960.

Students Study Animals

Green Meadow Elementary



Students in Mrs. Howard's second grade class researched, wrote and illustrated projects related to animals. The students are very proud of all the work they put into their animal projects.

News from the Athletic Department

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Congratulations to the 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Bill Liggett – Class of 1956
- Jay Stickle – Comstock Teacher, Coach & AD 1968-2000
- Melanie Pickett – Class of 1968
- Reggie Franks – Class of 1971
- Tracy Parker – Class of 1993
- 1994 State Championship Men's Track & Field team made up of Quesan Abrams, Jason Blades, Shawn Bowden, Ryan Darnell, T.J. Fields, Pat Fitzgerald, Aaron Gardner, Greg Gleesing, Quentin Hunt, Randy Hunt, Ryan Klok, Greg Kuhse, William Matta, Dan McCauley, Chris Moins, Corey Nord, Nathan Smeltzer, Andy Smith, J.B. Thomas, assistant coaches Don Eastman, Tammy Wilson, Paul Jennings and Head Coach Tim Cashen.

The Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Saturday, April 30, at the WMU Fetzer Center. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. and the induction to follow at 6:45 p.m. Tickets to this great event can be purchased from the Comstock Athletic Office for \$25.

Come support these great Comstock alumni and visit with family and friends. The deadline to purchase tickets is April 25.

High School and Middle School Physicals

A reminder that your son/daughter has to have a physical on file with the athletic office in order to be able to participate in sports. Physicals for the 16-

17 school year must be dated after April 15, 2016, to be good.

Spring Sports Awards Banquet

The spring sports awards banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 7, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Participants in all spring high school and middle school sports are invited to attend the banquet.

Comstock Stampede

The Comstock Stampede basketball program is seeing great strides in the improvement of our players' fundamentals. We realize that the success at the high school level rests on the development of our youth so we have put together fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys and girls tournament teams to play in four to six tournaments throughout the winter. The kids practice one or two times a week as they strive toward improving their skills and developing as a team. The program continues to evolve at this point.

The tournament season ended in March, so we will open the program for all kids in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades to attend our 3v3 skills training in April, free of charge so we can continue to develop our youth.

We understand that spring sports are right around the corner as well so we will do everything we can to put this program together so it doesn't conflict with the other spring sports. We want all of our kids playing sports so we can create healthy competition among our own athletes with the ultimate goal of

having fundamentally sound players at the middle school and high school levels.

More information regarding the goals of the Comstock Stampede as well as 3v3 information can be found at www.comstockstampede.org. Please contact Justin Ansel at anselj@comstockps.org with any questions.

KVA Boys Bowling Conference Champions

The varsity boys bowling team went into the league tournament in second place and ended up winning the tournament which earned them the conference Co-Championship. Congratulations to Coach Rich House, Kaleb Preston, Stephen Courtney, David Bell, Tyler West, Jacob Wentzloff, Eric Hotchkiss, Garrett Green, Zach Perkins and Mason House.

MHSAA State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Tanner Phares and Abby House for representing Comstock in the MHSAA State Finals in wrestling and bowling. Tanner Phares started off his state tournament with a pin but then came up short in his next two matches. Tanner finishes his senior year in wrestling with several school records and joins our 100 win club.

Abby House qualified for the Bowling State Meet and did a great job but didn't do well enough to make it into the round of 16. She had a great season as a freshman and will be looking to make another appearance next year as a sophomore.

Comstock High School Spring Sports Schedule

Boys/Girls Middle School Track

Wednesday	04/13	Lakeview Quad	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	04/18	Comstock MS Invitational	Home	4:00 PM
Tuesday	04/19	Lawton Tri w/ GA	Away	4:30 PM
Tuesday	04/26	Comstock Meet w/ Parch, KC, Const. & Otsego	Home	4:30 PM
Friday	04/29	Lakeview Invitational	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	05/02	Delton-Kellogg Meet w/ School & GA	Away	4:30 PM
Thursday	05/05	Comstock MS Invitational	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	05/09	Comstock Tri w/ St. Mon/Parch	Home	4:30 PM
Friday	05/13	Colt Relays	Home	4:30 PM
Tuesday	05/17	SAC Conference Meet	Home	4:00 PM

Boys/Girls Varsity Track

Wednesday	04/13	Parchment	Away	4:15 PM
Friday	04/15	Gull Lake Invitational	Away	4:00 PM
Wednesday	04/20	Berrien Springs HS	Away	4:15 PM
Friday	04/22	Comstock Invitational	Home	4:00 PM
Wednesday	04/27	Bridgman Public Schools	Home	4:15 PM
Tuesday	05/03	Brandywine Dual w/ Lawrence	Home	4:15 PM
Wednesday	05/11	Buchanan HS	Away	4:15 PM
Monday	05/16	Comstock Invitational	Home	3:00 PM
Saturday	05/21	MHSAA Reg. - Brandywine	Away	TBA
Wednesday	05/25	BCS Conference Meet at Brandywine	Away	1:00 PM

Boys Varsity Golf

Thursday	04/14	GK Golf Invitational - Stonehedge North	Away	9:00 AM
Friday	04/15	Parchment Jamboree - Eastern Hills	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	04/18	Centreville Jamboree - St. Joe Valley	Away	4:00 PM
Thursday	04/21	DK Golf Invite - Mullenhurst	Away	9:30 AM
Friday	04/22	Comstock JV Tourn. - Hickory Ridge	Home	9:00 AM
Friday	04/29	Comstock Jamboree - Eastern Hills	Home	4:00 PM
Thursday	05/05	Bronson Jamboree - Bella Vista	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	05/09	Mendon Jamboree - Klinger Lake	Away	4:00 PM
Monday	05/16	BCS Conference Meet	Away	9:00 AM
Wednesday	05/25	MHSAA District - Island Hills Golf Club	Away	TBA

Boys Varsity Baseball

Thursday	04/07	Union City High School	Away	4:00 PM
Saturday	04/09	Benton Harbor HS	Home	10:00 AM
Tuesday	04/12	Coldwater High School	Away	4:00 PM
Friday	04/15	Hopkins High School	Away	4:00 PM
Tuesday	04/19	Berrien Springs HS	Away	4:15 PM
Saturday	04/23	Coloma Round Robin w/ Bridgman	Away	10:00 AM
Tuesday	04/26	Buchanan HS	Home	4:15 PM
Friday	04/29	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Home	4:00 PM
Saturday	04/30	Hastings High School	Away	10:00 AM
Tuesday	05/03	Parchment	Home	4:15 PM
Friday	05/06	Gull Lake High School	Away	4:00 PM
Tuesday	05/10	Bridgman Public Schools	Home	4:15 PM
Saturday	05/14	Bangor Invitational	Away	10:00 AM
Tuesday	05/17	Brandywine High School	Away	4:15 PM
Thursday	05/19	Quincy High School	Away	4:00 PM
Tuesday	05/24	BCS Rain Date	Away	TBA
Wednesday	05/25	Lawrence Jr.-Sr. HS	Away	4:00 PM
Saturday	05/28	Bronson Invitational	Away	9:00 AM
Tuesday	05/31	MHSAA Pre District	Home	TBA
Saturday	06/04	MHSAA District Tournament	Home	TBA

Girls Varsity Softball

Saturday	04/09	Comstock Varsity Invite	Home	11:00 AM
Tuesday	04/12	Gull Lake High School	Away	4:00 PM
Thursday	04/14	Mendon High School	Home	4:00 PM
Tuesday	04/19	Berrien Springs HS	Away	4:30 PM
Friday	04/22	Galesburg-Augusta HS	Home	4:00 PM
Saturday	04/23	Loy Norrix Invitational	Away	10:00 AM
Tuesday	04/26	Buchanan HS	Home	4:30 PM
Saturday	04/30	Gull Lake Invite	Away	8:00 AM
Tuesday	05/03	Parchment	Home	4:30 PM
Friday	05/06	Hackett Catholic Central	Away	4:00 PM
Tuesday	05/10	Bridgman Public Schools	Home	4:30 PM
Saturday	05/14	Saugatuck High School	Away	10:00 AM
Tuesday	05/17	Brandywine High School	Away	4:30 PM
Friday	05/20	Loy Norrix High School	Home	4:00 PM
Tuesday	05/24	BCS Rain Date	Away	TBA
Wednesday	05/25	Martin High School	Away	4:30 PM
Friday	05/27	Otsego HS	Home	4:00 PM
Tuesday	05/31	MHSAA Pre-District	Home	TBA
Saturday	06/04	MHSAA Dist Tournament	Home	TBA

Girls Varsity Soccer

Wednesday	04/13	Buchanan HS	Away	5:00 PM
Saturday	04/16	Watervliet Tri w/ Bridgman	Away	12:00 PM
Monday	04/18	Saugatuck High School	Away	5:00 PM
Wednesday	04/20	Brandywine High School	Home	6:00 PM
Thursday	04/21	Coloma High School	Away	5:00 PM
Monday	04/25	Cassopolis High School	Home	6:00 PM
Wednesday	04/27	Maple Valley High School	Away	5:30 PM
Friday	04/29	Bangor Public Schools	Away	6:00 PM
Wednesday	05/04	Berrien Springs HS	Home	6:00 PM
Friday	05/06	Hartford High School	Home	6:00 PM
Wednesday	05/11	Parchment	Away	6:00 PM
Friday	05/13	Schoolcraft High School	Away	5:00 PM
Monday	05/16	BCS Crossover	Home	TBA
Wednesday	05/18	BCS Crossover	Away	TBA
Friday	05/20	Hopkins High School	Home	6:00 PM
Wednesday	05/25	Delton-Kellogg H.S.	Home	6:00 PM
Tuesday	05/31	MHSAA District Quarter	Home	6:00 PM
Thursday	06/02	MHSAA District Semi	Home	6:00 PM
Saturday	06/04	MHSAA District Final	Home	11:00 AM

Girls Varsity Tennis

Tuesday	04/12	Schoolcraft High School	Away	4:00 PM
Thursday	04/14	Berrien Springs HS	Home	4:00 PM
Saturday	04/16	GK Tourney	Away	TBA
Monday	04/18	GK Finals	Away	TBA
Tuesday	04/19	Lake Michigan Catholic HS	Away	4:00 PM
Thursday	04/21	Buchanan HS	Home	4:00 PM
Monday	04/25	Bridgman Public Schools	Away	4:00 PM
Thursday	04/28	Brandywine High School	Home	4:00 PM
Saturday	04/30	Otsego Tournament	Away	8:00 AM
Tuesday	05/03	Bronson Junior/Senior HS	Away	4:30 PM
Thursday	05/05	New Buffalo High School	Away	4:30 PM
Monday	05/09	Hillsdale HS	Home	4:00 PM
Tuesday	05/10	Constantine High School	Home	4:30 PM
Saturday	05/14	BCS Tournament at Lakeshore and St. Joe	Away	9:00 AM
Thursday	05/19	MHSAA Regional in Battle Creek	Away	TBA

Comstock Township Library Events

Coloring, Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation for Adults... Are you interested in getting together with other adults for some conversation and coloring? If so, please call 345-0136 and ask for Rachael. We will provide the coloring books, supplies, coffee, and cookies.

Are you interested in joining an evening Book Club? If so, please inquire at the adult reference desk or call 345-0136.

Have extra skeins of yarn? We are now accepting donations for our Warm-Up America Lap Robe Project. If you are interested in crocheting or knitting, please contact Myla or Barb at the library.

The Kalamazoo Tax Initiative will be at the Comstock Township Library on April 12 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free Income Tax Preparation and Electronic Filing services provided by IRS-certified community volunteers for individuals and families with household incomes of up to \$54,000 in 2015. Services include completion of federal and state returns including credits. Direct deposit is available at all locations. **Dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment**, or go online to goodwillswmi.org and click on the tax link for more information on locations, times, what to bring, or how to complete and electronically file your own return for free.

Comstock Community Bulletin Board: We will be hosting an online bulletin board for the community. This free service is hosted by the Comstock Township Library for events of interest to Comstock area residents. Event submissions are free; however, the library takes no responsibility for the claims made in these advertisements. Click on the "Submit an Event" link to send us your information. Please visit our website for a link to the bulletin board.

ADULT CRAFTS:

April: Bleach Art, Wednesday, April 27, at 5:30 p.m. Did you ever expect to paint with bleach on fabric? Join us for this bleach artistry on dish towels. Please bring your creativity and

we will supply the rest! Registration begins on Monday, April 11, at the adult reference desk. Space is limited for this free craft.

May: Plate Garden Flower, Wednesday, May 25, at 5:30 p.m. Make a lovely garden flower out of glass plates (and whatever else we can get our hands on) to put in your flower bed or herb garden. See display at the adult reference desk. Sign-ups for this free craft begin on Monday, April 28, at the adult reference desk. Call 345-0136 for more information.

Summer Reading Program: Exercise Your Mind: Read! Summer Reading Program for Adults (must be 18 or older to participate). Registration begins Monday, June 6, at the adult reference desk; however, you may not report the books you have read or listened to until June 13. Fill out a form for each Comstock Township Library book you read or listen to from June 6 to August 6 and enter to win prizes. The grand prize will be a Chromebook (16 GB) and will be drawn on August 8. For further details, call 345-0136.

EVENTS IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPT DUE TO LACK OF PARTICIPATION, THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS PROGRAM HAS BEEN CANCELED. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: Pre-Kindergarten. Comstock Township Library is encouraging parents and caregivers to read 1000 books to their young children and earn prizes along the way. Any child can participate until s/he enters kindergarten. Stop by the Young People's desk to register and pick up a tracking sheet. **Registration is ongoing.**

STORYTIME: Ages 1-5. Registration for the Winter Storytime sessions began on January 4. Register your child for a 45-minute session which includes 30 minutes of stories, songs, and other activities followed by a short craft. Storytimes run through April 28. Storytime sessions are as follows:

CLOSINGS

The library will be closed on Saturday, May 28, and Monday, May 30.

Mondays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
2-3 year olds
Tuesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
1-2 year olds
Wednesdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
3-5 year olds
Thursdays: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
3-5 year olds

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: Grades 6-12. Earn community service hours by recommending and helping to plan teen programming events for you and your friends, suggesting items for the young adult collection, and more! Registration is required and begins the Monday before the event. Meeting times are as follows:

Friday, April 1, 4-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, March 28.)

Friday, May 6, 4-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, May 2.)

SATURDAY STORYTIMES: Ages 1-5. Can't make it to Storytimes during the week? Join us for a Saturday storytime session! No registration is necessary for this drop-in session which includes 30 minutes of stories, music, and parachute play. Saturday Storytimes will be on the following date:

Saturday, April 2, 10:30-11 a.m.

LEGO CLUB: All ages. Use your imagination to build a Lego creation for us to display in the youth area of the library! We will provide a variety of Legos including Duplo Legos for younger participants. Meeting times are as follows:

Friday, April 8, 3:30-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, April 4.)

Friday, May 13, 3:30-5 p.m.

(Registration begins Monday, May 9.)

DROP-IN SPRING CRAFTS: Tuesday, April 5, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., all ages. No registration is necessary for this free drop-in session. Choose three crafts from a variety of new and previously offered crafts. Quantities and styles may be limited.

Comstock Township Library Events *(continued)*

BREAKING “BOARDOM”: Saturday, April 30, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., all ages. Open to all board game lovers. Come in and play a variety of favorites! We will have *Candyland, Sorry!, Battleship, Guess Who, Apples to Apples, Hungry Hippos*, and several decks of cards. We will provide pizza, popcorn, and lemonade for lunch.

MOTHER’S DAY STORYTIME: Saturday, May 7, 10:30-11 a.m., ages 1-5. Join us for a special Mother’s Day storytime with stories, songs, and other activities followed by Mother’s Day Craft. Registration is required for this free event and begins Monday, May 2.

MOTHER’S DAY CRAFT: Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m.-Noon, all ages. Join us for a special Mother’s Day craft! Choose a flower recipe card holder, a wooden flower picture holder, or a pot holder. Quantities and styles are limited. Registration is required for this free event and begins Monday, May 2.

FOR EVERYONE!

WE HAVE eBOOKS! Call us for more information! 345-0136.

The library now has a Cricut Expression available for patron use. You must be 18 years or older or with a parent or guardian to use and must provide your own cardstock. Please call 345-0136 for further information.

Would you like to learn how to research genealogy using Ancestry Library Edition? Please call the library 345-0136 to set up an appointment with a librarian.



Call the library to make sure we are open if there is inclement weather.



We now have tutor rooms and Wi-Fi available! Call 345-0136 for more information.



We now have a fax service! Must use credit or debit card to send.



Now Available

OverDrive! Download free audiobooks and e-books from home using your computer, MP3 player, e-book reader, and other compatible devices.



Computer Help

Have a question about the computer? Would you like to learn how to use the computer? Please call 345-0136 to set up a block of time for one-on-one help. Must be a library cardholder.



Need Resume Help?

Please call to schedule an appointment or visit the adult reference desk to do so. We will help you write a cover letter or resume, or just proofread one you already have. Call 345-0136 for further information. Must be a library cardholder.

Continued from page 2

network switching and routing equipment and replacement of student computing devices.

The board’s highest priority for students is always safety. The board has made improving student, staff and community safety a major focus of this bond proposal. If the voters approve the bond proposal, all school buildings would have their entrances secured. Other safety enhancements such as exterior door replacement, outdoor lighting improvements and improved traffic flow at school facilities would be included.

One thing to keep in mind about our district is that almost all of our buildings are at least 50 years old. The oldest building is the STEM Academy at 67 years old. The average age of all of our buildings is 57.

The table at the right gives you the date of original construction and years of major improvements or renovations. The board recognizes that the community has made significant investments in these buildings and wants to continue as good stewards of the community’s assets.

If you would like additional information or have questions regarding the bond issue, please feel free to call me at (269) 250-8907 or e-mail me at morat@comstockps.org

Please remember to vote on May 3, 2016.

With Colt Pride!
Todd D. Mora
Superintendent

Comstock Public Schools Original Construction and Major Renovations				
Building	Date of Construction	Major Additions/Renovations	Building Age in Years	Square Footage
NEMS	1973	1991	43	82,431
High School	1969	1973, 1991	47	137,264
STEM Academy	1949	1951, 1973, 1990, 1991	67	34,137
North Elementary	1957	1960, 1965, 1975, 1983	59	39,719
Green Meadow El.	1950	1959, 1962, 1965, 1973, 1990	66	29,679
ESC/Compass HS	1956	1965, 1973, 1991	60	39,230
Average Age and Total Square Footage			57	362,460